

# Health Advisory: Tenth Travel-Associated Measles Case

Minnesota Department of Health, Wed, Sep 21 10:00 CDT 2022

## Action Steps

**Local and tribal health department:** Please forward to hospitals, urgent care centers, clinics, travel clinics and convenience clinics in your jurisdiction.

**Hospitals, clinics and other facilities:** Please distribute to health care providers who treat patients presenting with new illness.

**Health care providers:**

- Consider heightened awareness of measles in patients presenting with clinically compatible symptoms between now and October 6, 2022.
- Be alert to symptoms of measles disease in returning international travelers or patients who have been in contact with persons recently returning from international travel.
- Assess MMR status of your patients and vaccinate susceptible persons according to routine MMR recommendations.
- Contact the Minnesota Immunization Information Connection (MIIC) to get help recalling overdue patients. A program to text clients is available free of charge to MN providers, as well as other Client Follow Up features in MIIC. (Email: [health.miichelp@state.mn.us](mailto:health.miichelp@state.mn.us))
- Isolate suspected measles cases: See [Minimize Measles Transmission in Health Care Settings](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/hcp/minimize.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/hcp/minimize.html>).
- Obtain throat and urine specimens for PCR: See [Lab Testing for Measles at MDH Public Health Laboratory](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/hcp/labtesting.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/hcp/labtesting.html>). If tested too early, false negatives may occur.
- Report suspected cases and contact MDH at 1-877-676-5414 (toll-free) or 651-201-5414 with questions.

## Background

Cases of laboratory-confirmed measles have been confirmed by PCR testing at the Minnesota Department of Health Public Health Laboratory. The cases are in four children who are residents of Ramsey County and who recently returned from a country where measles is endemic. All four children were unvaccinated. The children's clinical symptoms included **coryza, conjunctivitis, fever, rash, diarrhea, and dehydration**. Rash onset of the initial case was September 14, 2022. Secondary cases from this initial cluster in Minnesota would be expected to have onset between now and October 6. Exposures mainly occurred in school and health care settings in Ramsey County. There is little risk of exposure to the general population beyond these settings. Exposed individuals who can be identified are being notified and given information about how to obtain post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) as indicated. Providers are encouraged to call MDH if there is any question about whether an individual should receive PEP or how to obtain it.

This most recent set of cases brings Minnesota up to a total of **10 travel-related case of measles** confirmed in Minnesota since June. Health care providers are encouraged to be on high alert for measles among patients returning from recent international travel to endemic or outbreak areas (including Europe, the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and South America).

Individuals of any age who are not vaccinated have a high chance of exposure to measles when traveling to countries where measles is still common.

## More Information

- [MDH Think Measles \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/thinkmeasles/index.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/thinkmeasles/index.html)  
A poster about the importance of getting vaccinated for measles before traveling internationally is available in several languages.
- [MDH Measles Information for Health Professionals \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/hcp/index.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/hcp/index.html)  
Additional information.
- [CDC: Measles: Plan for Travel \(https://www.cdc.gov/measles/plan-for-travel.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/measles/plan-for-travel.html)  
Measles and travel.

A copy of this HAN is available at: [MDH Health Alert Network \(http://www.health.state.mn.us/han\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/han)  
The content of this message is intended for public health and health care personnel and response partners who have a need to know the information to perform their duties.